Facsimile Cover Sheet

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cover page:

Letter from Councillor-at-Large Dennis Irish.

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Renata Hesse Trial Attorney Antitrust Division Department of Justice 601 D Street NW, Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20530

VIA FACSIMILE 202-616-9937

Dear Attorney Hesse:

I would like to comment regarding the proposed settlement in the Microsoft lawsuit.

As a City Councilor, I represent an older city, which is the second largest city in Massachusetts.

I would like to add my voice to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft lawsuit. I fully support the Agreement's approach of directing part of the settlement towards public schools. Scores of children attend schools with scant resources, which undermine the educational process.

We have all heard about the digital divide that exists along socio-economic lines. This divide has an adverse effect on public education. Recent research claims that 82% of classrooms in higher income communities have Internet access while classrooms in poorer communities have a 60% connection rate.

I support the aims of the Settlement Agreement that has been proposed, for these reasons. This agreement will provide some of our poorer students with access to technology. The agreement, which calls for Microsoft to provide 200,000 computers to eligible schools at almost no cost, will be a great resource to older school districts.

I urge the Court to approve the proposed Agreement.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Irish Councillor-at-Large

DLI/alg